



News Release

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Spillway gates to open at Gavins Point Dam, no increase in releases

Omaha – Releases from Gavins Point Dam will be diverted from the powerhouse to the emergency spillway on Wednesday, Sept. 8, to allow replacement of electrical switching equipment. No additional water from the reservoir system will be released.

The current release rate of 26,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) will be maintained. The water will be gradually diverted from the turbines in the powerhouse to be released through several of the spillway gates beginning at 7 a.m. The operation will continue until 4:30 p.m., when the process will be reversed with the releases reverting back to the turbines.

Boaters are urged to stay clear of all turbulent water downstream of the spillway.

Releasing water over the spillway will result in a loss of 880 megawatt hours of electricity. The Army Corps of Engineers operates and maintains six large dams on the Missouri River. As a general rule, all water released from the dams goes through the powerhouses to generate electricity. This power is marketed throughout the upper Midwest by the Western Area Power Administration.

The last time water was released through the spillway at Gavins Point was in the fall of 1999. The annual runoff that year was 31.2 million acre feet (MAF). Runoff in 2004 is anticipated to total 16.2 MAF. Normal is 25 MAF.